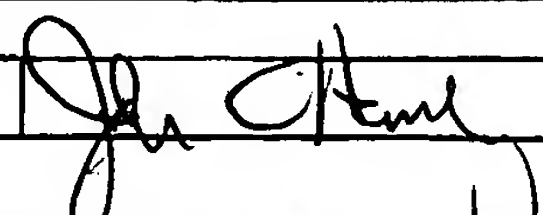


PTO/SB/OBA (04-03)

<b>Substitute for form 1449/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/040,834
		Filing Date	January 7, 2002
		First Named Inventor	Kazuhiro EBARA
		Art Unit	2858
		Examiner Name	J. Hanley
		Attorney Docket Number	36856.837

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	1	5,048,608	07/1997	Nakamura	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>2</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number-Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)				
	2	DE 39 43 805 C2 (English language abstract only)	02/1990			X
	3	DE 198 53 577 A1 (English language abstract only)	06/1997			X

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	6/20/04
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\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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